

# Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

## INSIDE:

Jeff Fuller, Justin Brantly, R.C. Slocum, Rachel Shipley, Sarah Ammerman, Ryan Swope, Reveille VIII and More

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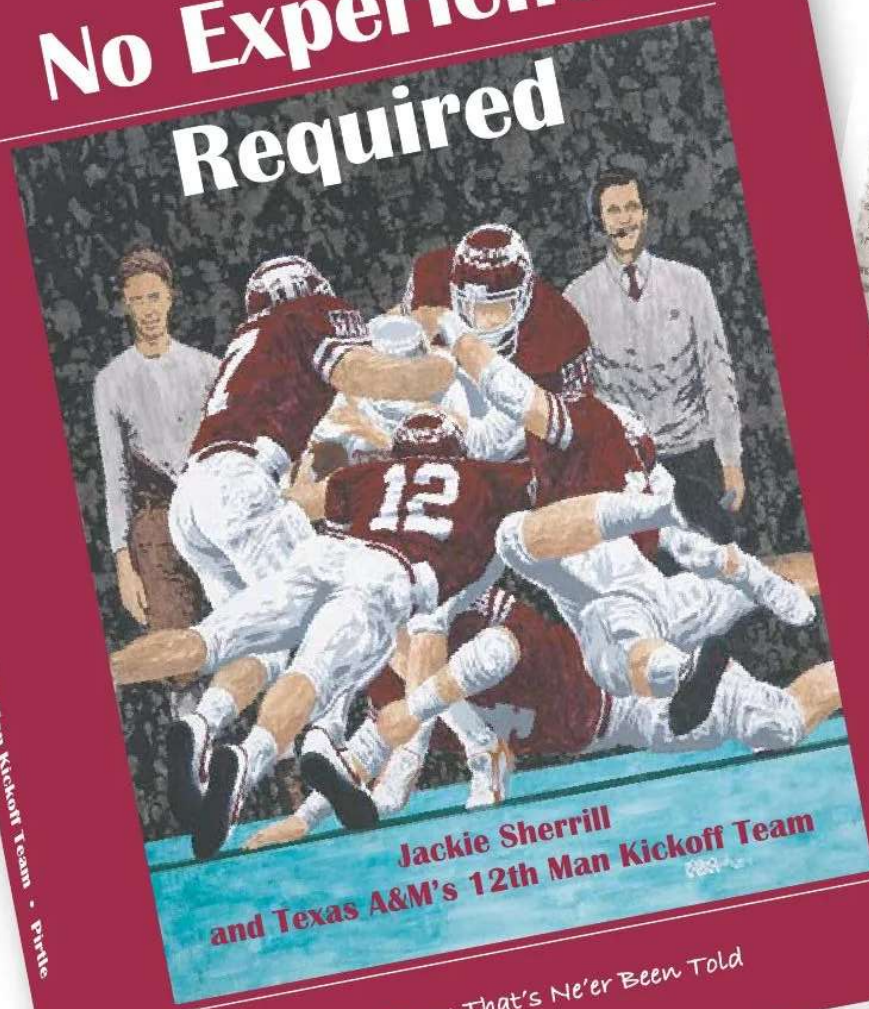


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### FIND THE 01

On the Cover: Wide receiver Jeff Fuller leads a talented group of freshmen on the football field. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

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Do you know where the photo above was taken? Send an e-mail to [photo@aggiemag.com](mailto:photo@aggiemag.com) and let us know. Get it right and we'll enter your name in a drawing for a free copy of the book *Standing for America: The Spirit of Kyle Field*. Look for the answer in the next issue of AI. The photo in the September 08 issue was taken outside Olsen Field.





Texas A&M softball legend Megan Gibson autographs copies of the July/August 08 issue of *AI* for fans before the Miami football game.



## Howdy!

Well somehow we have managed to complete our first monthly issue of *AI*. For those of you who don't already know, after producing six issues a year for our first two years, we decided to add two more issues so that we could deliver them monthly during football season. That may not sound like a lot of extra work, but when you're doing this in your "free time" it makes it more of a challenge. But the reason we are publishing this magazine in the first place is that it is a lot of fun and we love Aggieland. We hope you enjoy a little more frequent coverage during the fall.

In the past, when the *AI* staff would sit down to plan each issue (over some chips, salsa, guacamole, iced tea, etc. at Mi Cocina), we usually had a pretty good idea what the main focus, or theme, was going to be. Entering this new territory of an October issue, we were not real sure what to expect. We knew football, of course, would be a big focus as well as soccer and volleyball. But we didn't really see a common theme until we started putting everything together. That's when it hit us – instant impact.

You can't talk about instant impact in Aggieland right now without mentioning the athlete on our cover – Jeff Fuller. Just a true freshman, the talented wideout is already the go-to receiver on the Aggie football team. Fuller has a good chance to rewrite the record books for A&M receivers.

Fuller is not the only instant impact athlete you can read about in this issue. Sophomore soccer standout Rachel Shipley and junior volleyball star Sarah Ammerman made instant impacts to their respective programs and continue to lead their teams on and off the field/court.

You can also read a story about a man you are likely very familiar with – the legendary R.C. Slocum. There are few who have made more of an impact on Texas A&M athletics than the all-time winningest head football coach. We had the privilege of sitting down with Coach for an hour conversation that seemed like 15 minutes. I could listen to him tell stories all day long. We also invited ourselves out to his ranch to take pictures of R.C. Slocum – the cowboy. When we drove up, he was already on his horse waiting for us. He was more welcoming than I could have ever imagined. Thanks Coach!

I hope you enjoy this issue filled with stories about people who we are proud to call Aggies. And, as always, if you like or dislike anything we do, please contact us and let us know about it.

Gig'em Ags!

*Brian '01*

P.S. Be sure and check out our new feature on page 49 – Aggie Tailgate of the Month.





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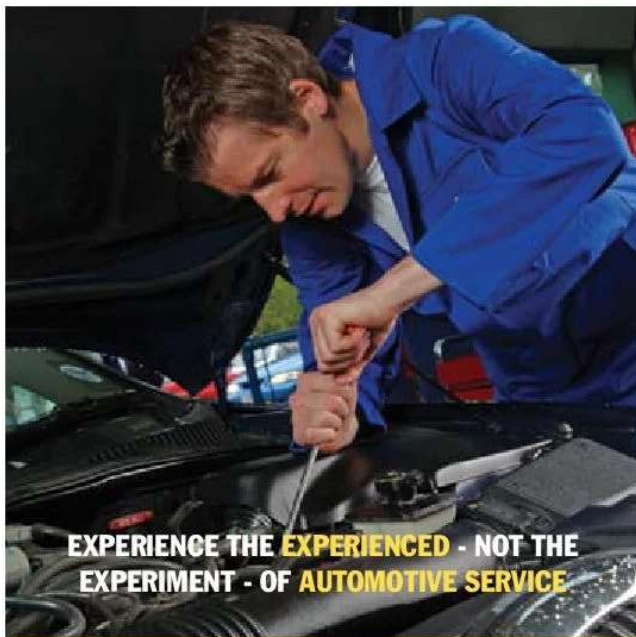
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snapshot

Rushing: 82

Passing: 245





Total: 327

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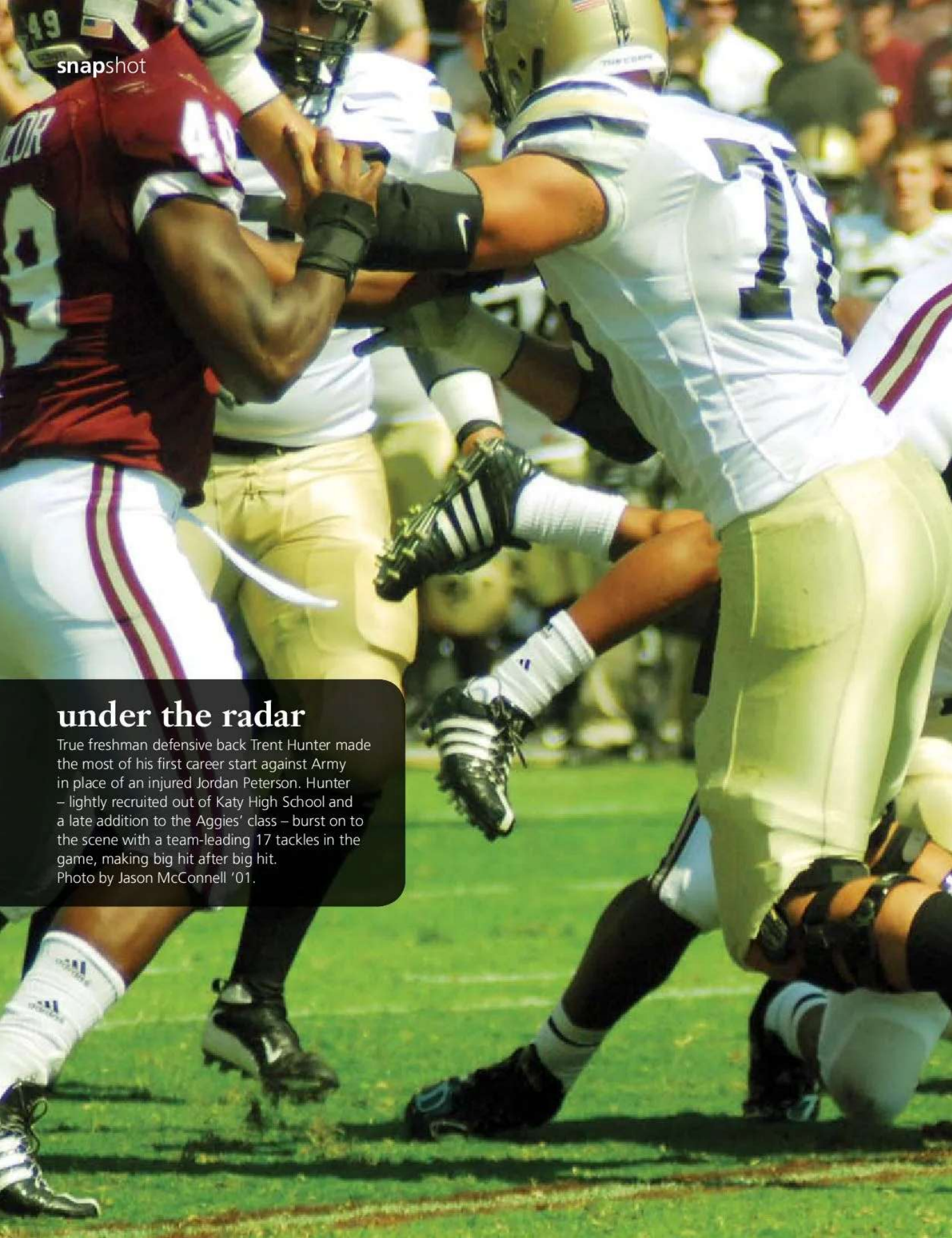
## crossing the line

Texas A&M junior running back Mike Goodson stretches for the endzone after receiving a Jerrod Johnson pass in the fourth quarter of the Miami game. Goodson scored on the play for his second touchdown of the game, but it was too little, too late for the Aggies to mount a comeback against the Hurricanes.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01.







snapshot

## under the radar

True freshman defensive back Trent Hunter made the most of his first career start against Army in place of an injured Jordan Peterson. Hunter – lightly recruited out of Katy High School and a late addition to the Aggies' class – burst on to the scene with a team-leading 17 tackles in the game, making big hit after big hit.  
Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

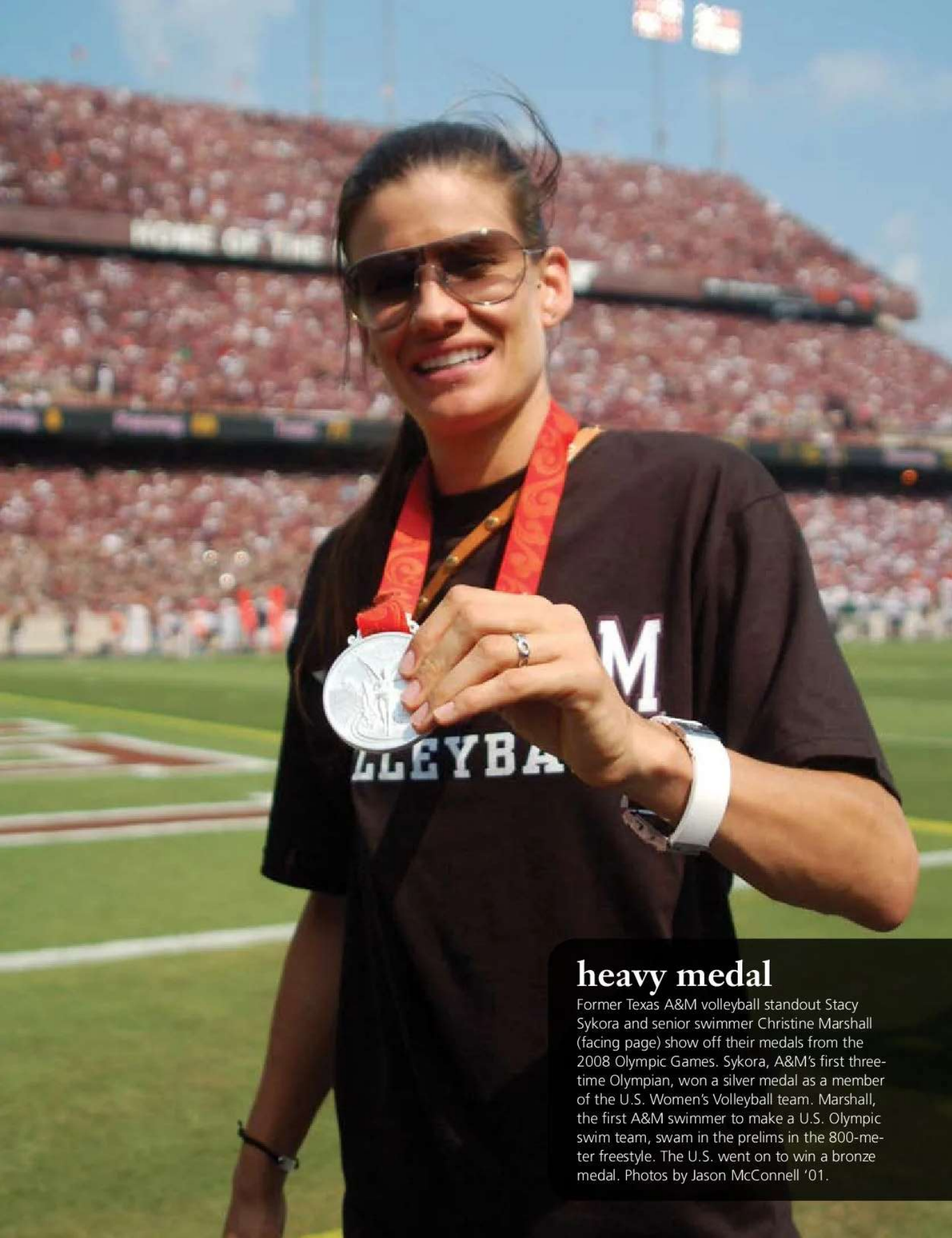












## heavy medal

Former Texas A&M volleyball standout Stacy Sykora and senior swimmer Christine Marshall (facing page) show off their medals from the 2008 Olympic Games. Sykora, A&M's first three-time Olympian, won a silver medal as a member of the U.S. Women's Volleyball team. Marshall, the first A&M swimmer to make a U.S. Olympic swim team, swam in the prelims in the 800-meter freestyle. The U.S. went on to win a bronze medal. Photos by Jason McConnell '01.



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# the need **FOR SPEED**

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04



## **Please excuse us if we sound like a broken record.**

In just about every recruiting section since Mike Sherman was announced as Texas A&M's new head coach, speed has been one of the primary topics at hand. Unfortunately, (or fortunately, however you see it) we're not going to win an award for originality for this issue either, as it would be virtually impossible to talk about Austin Westlake's Ryan Swope without mentioning his outstanding speed.

Swope was one of the earliest commitments for Texas A&M in the 2009 recruiting class, casting his lot in March of 2008. Blessed with good size and blazing speed, Swope should make an instant impact for the Aggies.

Though the Chaparrals aren't having a typical Austin Westlake season so far, Swope has been a bright spot thus far. After opening the season 0-3, Westlake finally picked up their first win

with an impressive offensive performance from the talented athlete. In a 49-35 victory over Austin Bowie, Swope carried the ball 31 times for 175 yards and four touchdowns, and added five receptions for 76 yards and a receiving touchdown as well.

While Swope wasn't as statistically productive in an early loss at A&M Consolidated, we had a chance to see him play in person and came away impressed. The Chaps never got much going offensively, and the offensive line had trouble handling the Tigers in the trenches. Still, Swope managed to grind out tough yards, and showed a surprising ability to shed tacklers. Although his abilities will probably not translate to an every-down, between-the-tackles runner at the next level, his soft hands, tremendous acceleration and toughness could allow him to become a nice third down back for the Aggies as well as a slot receiver.

In an interview with Inside Texas, Austin Westlake head coach





Derek Long gave Swope's abilities at the next level high praise.

"With all these coaches running the spread and the one-back, their biggest complaint is not having a guy who's big enough to block," Long said. "He is 6-1, 197 pounds now, maybe even over 6-1. He's got the size to block. He's got the speed to pop it and go all the way. He's got the hands to catch it out of the backfield, or you can put him in the slot and he'll catch the deep ball. Offensively he has a lot of dimensions."

If you want a chance to catch Swope in action but can't make it over to Austin during football season, be sure and clear your calendar in the spring, where you can get a glimpse of his athletic abilities during a track and field event. A superlative sprinter, Swope has been clocked at 10.7 seconds in the 100 meter dash, and excels in events such as the 400 meter relay and long jump.

Indeed, Swope's athleticism will be a welcomed addition to the Aggie football team next season, as he looks to be the next great Austin Westlake alumni to don the maroon and white since wide receiver Chad Schroeder and tight end Joey Thomas. An early offer from Coach Sherman and speed to burn fits the mold of true freshmen who go on to see action in their first year in the Aggie football program. Be ready, Mr. Swope. Your time on Kyle Field is likely to come sooner rather than later. **AT**

"He's got the size to block. He's got the speed to pop it and go all the way. He's got the hands to catch it out of the backfield, or you can put him in the slot and he'll catch the deep ball. Offensively he has a lot of dimensions."

—AUSTIN WESTLAKE HEAD COACH DEREK LONG

# CLASS OF 2009 AGGIE COMMITMENTS



## STEPHEN BARRERA (OL)

Clear Lake (Clear Lake, TX)  
HT: 6-6 WT: 280  
24-5A Second Team All-District DL



## STEVEN CAMPBELL (DB)

Jersey Village (Houston, TX)  
HT: 6-0 WT: 180  
17-5A First Team All-District DB



## KIRBY ENNIS (DE)

Huntsville (Huntsville, TX)  
HT: 6-4 WT: 235  
18-4A First Team All-District OLB



## RICO FORBES (DE)

St. Pius (Houston, TX)  
HT: 6-5 WT: 255  
An imposing specimen and gifted athlete



## KALVIN GUYTON (RB)

Lamar (Houston, TX)  
HT: 5-9 WT: 200  
20-5A Offensive Most Valuable Player



## DUSTIN HARRIS (ATH)

Livingston (Livingston, TX)  
HT: 6-2 WT: 175  
18-4A Second Team All-District Utility Back



## CHRIS HENDERSON (DT)

Carter (Dallas, TX)  
HT: 6-1 WT: 250  
11-5A First Team All-District DL



## BRANDAL JACKSON (WR)

Navasota (Navasota, TX)  
HT: 6-1 WT: 185  
His leaping ability is off the charts



## MALCOLM JOHNSON (LB)

Jersey Village (Houston, TX)  
HT: 6-2 WT: 210  
Great size, speed and athletic background



## CORYELL JUDIE (DB)

Fort Scott CC (KS) (Fort Scott, KS)  
HT: 5-11 WT: 185  
One of the nation's top JUCO cornerbacks



## MICHAEL LAMOTHE (LB)

New Iberia (LA) (New Iberia, LA)  
HT: 6-2 WT: 215  
Outstanding versatility and athleticism



## PATRICK LEWIS (OL)

East St. John's (LA)  
HT: 6-2 WT: 290  
One of the nation's top interior line recruits



	<b>KENRICK MCNEAL (ATH)</b> Spring (Spring, TX) HT: 6-1 WT: 165 16-5A First Team All-District QB
	<b>CLINT NARON (OL)</b> Klein Oak (Klein, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 275 Texas Football Super Team OL (1st)
	<b>UZOMA NWACHUKWU (WR)</b> Allen (Allen, TX) HT: 6-0 WT: 180 Great hands, acceleration and field vision
	<b>SEAN PORTER (LB)</b> Schertz Clemens (Schertz, TX) HT: 6-2 WT: 205 Tremendous athlete with great quickness
	<b>HUTSON PRIOLEAU (TE)</b> All Saints Episcopal (Fort Worth, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 230 The state's top-ranked tight end
	<b>RHONTE SCALES (OL)</b> Killeen (Killeen, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 285 16-4A First Team All-District OL
	<b>JONATHAN STEWART (LB)</b> Shreveport Byrd (LA) (Shreveport, LA) HT: 6-4 WT: 220 Tall, rangy, sideline-to-sideline linebacker
	<b>RYAN SWOPE (ATH)</b> Austin Westlake (Austin, TX) HT: 6-0 WT: 190 <b>LIUCCI SAYS:</b> "Ryan Swope is a do-it-all type cut from the same mold as former A&M standout Jason Carter or former Westlake running backs Brett Robin and Ryan Nunez (Texas). Swope has the ability to make big plays as a traditional tailback, slot receiver, or pass-catcher out of the backfield, as well as the return game. As a junior, Ryan ran for 1,311 yards and 14 touchdowns on 148 carries (good for a healthy 8.9 yard average). He also added 521 yards and 7 TD's on 23 receptions."
	<b>STEVEN TERRELL (DB)</b> Allen (Allen, TX) HT: 5-11 WT: 175 Physical player with great speed
	<b>CHARLIE THOMAS (DB)</b> Beaumont Central (Beaumont, TX) HT: 6-1 WT: 195 22-4A First Team All-District OLB
	<b>COLTON VALENCIA (DB)</b> Fort Bend Hightower (Fort Bend, TX) HT: 5-10 WT: 175 Lockdown corner that hits like a safety
	<b>ANDREW WEAVER (LB)</b> Waco (Waco, TX) HT: 6-3 WT: 225 16-4A First Team All-District DE

For complete coverage of Texas A&M recruiting, contact Billy Liucci of the Maroon & White Report at (979) 690-7361 or by visiting [www.agsports.com](http://www.agsports.com)

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# TOP 113 IN 09

## Quarterbacks (10)

1	 Garrett Gilbert Committed to Texas	Lake Travis	6-3	185
2	 Tyrik Rollison UH, FSU, KU, TCU, AZ	Sulphur Springs	6-2	185
3	 Cody Green Committed to Nebraska	Dayton	6-3	205
4	 Ryan Mossakowski Committed to Kentucky	Frisco Centennial	6-6	210
5	 Shevodrick Beaver Committed to Michigan	Wichita Falls Rider	6-4	200
6	 Drew Allen Committed to Oklahoma	Alamo Heights	6-4	195
7	 Jacob Karam Committed to Texas Tech	Friendswood	6-0	180
8	 Kolby Gray BC, CAL, OKS, TT, RICE	Cy Falls	6-2	180
9	 Christian Matthews Committed to Kansas	Bowie	6-4	180
10	 Casey Pachall Committed to TCU	Brownwood	6-4	185














## Running Backs (9)

1	 Christine Michael A&M, OU, OKS, LSU, TEX	Beaumont Westbrook	5-11	195
2	 Dexter Pratt Committed to LSU	Navasota	6-2	220
3	 Stepfan Taylor Committed to Stanford	Mansfield	6-0	185
4	 Knile Davis A&M, BU, KSU, LSU, MIZ	Marshall	6-0	205
5	 Kalvin Guyton Committed to Texas A&M	Houston Lamar	5-9	200
6	 Jonathan Miller Committed to Oklahoma	Naaman Forest	6-0	180
7	 Hasan Lipscomb Committed to Minnesota	Cypress Ridge	5-11	205
8	 Toben Oporum	Plano East	6-2	225
9	 Jurell Thompson Committed to TCU	Wichita Falls Rider	5-10	190

















## Tight Ends (4)

1	 Hutson Prioleau Committed to Texas A&M	All Saints Episcopal	6-5	230
2	 Barrett Matthews Committed to Texas	North Shore	6-2	235
3	 Jordan Najvar Committed to Stanford	Klein Oak	6-6	235
4	 Trey Graham Committed to Texas	Waco Midway	6-5	225

## Wide Receivers (13)

1	 Greg Timmons Committed to Texas	Aldine Eisenhower	6-3	195
2	 Uzoma Nwachukwu Committed to Texas A&M	Allen	6-0	180
3	 Eric Ward Committed to Oklahoma	Wichita Falls Rider	5-11	185
4	 Brandal Jackson Committed to Texas A&M	Navasota	6-1	185
5	 DeWayne Peace Committed to Michigan	South Grand Prairie	5-11	170
6	 Marquis Goodwin Committed to Texas	Rowlett	5-9	160
7	 Josh Gordon A&M, TCU, MIZ, NEB, TT	Lamar	6-4	210
8	 Emory Blake FLA, LSU, ND, ORE, TEX	Austin	6-2	200
9	 Dameon Smith	Marshall	6-1	205
10	 Aaron Fisher Committed to Texas Tech	Fossil Ridge	6-4	200
11	 Jarrod Darden Committed to Colorado	Keller Central	6-4	210
12	 Jazman Reynolds Committed to Oklahoma	Aldine Eisenhower	6-4	180
13	 Chayse Joubert A&M, FSU, CAL, MIA, TT	Arlington Grace Prep	6-1	185

## Offensive Linemen (16)

1	 Mason Walters Committed to Texas	Frenship	6-8	290
2	 Rhonte Scales Committed to Texas A&M	Killeen	6-5	285
3	 Ivory Wade Committed to Baylor	Dickinson	6-3	285
4	 Stavion Lowe Committed to LSU	Brownwood	6-4	285
5	 Stephen Barrera Committed to Texas A&M	Clear Lake	6-6	280
6	 Clint Naron Committed to Texas A&M	Klein Oak	6-5	275
7	 Thomas Ashcraft Committed to Texas	Cedar Hill	6-5	280
8	 Garrett Porter Committed to Texas	Odessa Permian	6-6	300
9	 Ty Horn Committed to TCU	Waco Midway	6-5	270
10	 Kyle Clark Committed to Texas Tech	Denton Guyer	6-4	270
11	 Joel Gray Committed to Texas Tech	Hebron	6-6	285
12	 Josh Aladenoye Committed to Oklahoma	North Mesquite	6-5	300
13	 Paden Kelley Committed to Texas	Lake Travis	6-6	265
14	 Michael Brown Committed to Ole Miss	Lexington	6-5	295
15	 Jesse Coffey Committed to Nebraska	Denton Guyer	6-7	270
16	 Bobby Janisch Committed to Rice	Houston Jersey Village	6-6	290



## Defensive Tackles (8)

1	Jamarcus McFarland <i>A&amp;M, TEX, OU, LSU, OKS</i>	Lufkin	6-3	280
2	Chris Henderson <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Dallas Carter	6-1	250
3	Calvin Howell <i>Committed to Texas</i>	San Antonio Warren	6-4	270
4	James Dunbar <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Maud	6-6	290
5	Kyles Kriegel <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Elysian Fields	6-5	235
6	Nosa Eguae	Mansfield Summit	6-2	245
7	Bryant House <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Maud	6-4	265
8	Thaddeus Randle <i>Committed to Nebraska</i>	Northshore	6-1	250

## Linebackers (13)

1	Thomas Wort <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	New Braunfels	6-1	210
2	Tariq Allen <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Irving MacArthur	6-2	230
3	Brandon Mahoney <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Fossil Ridge	6-2	210
4	Sean Porter <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Schertz Clemens	6-2	205
5	Chris Williams	Abilene	6-1	205
6	Andrew Weaver <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Waco	6-3	225
7	Malcolm Johnson <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Klein Collins	6-2	210
8	Chris McAllister	Converse Junction	6-2	210
9	Patrick Nkwopara <i>Committed to Texas</i>	South Grand Prairie	5-11	195
10	Austin Moss <i>Committed to Arkansas</i>	South Garland	6-2	205
11	Tanner Brock <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Copperas Cove	6-3	205
12	Rod Goodlow	Dallas Adamson	6-2	205
13	James Scott <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Coldspring	6-3	220

## Defensive Ends (9)

1	Michael Brockers <i>Committed to LSU</i>	Houston Chavez	6-3	230
2	Alex Okafor <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Pflugerville	6-4	220
3	Dominique Jones <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Kilgore	6-3	230
4	Terrance Lloyd <i>Committed to Missouri</i>	Houston Stratford	6-4	220
5	Kirby Ennis <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Huntsville	6-4	235
6	Rico Forbes <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	St. Pius	6-5	255
7	Brandon Henderson <i>Committed to SMU</i>	Abilene Cooper	6-3	225
8	Josh Skinner <i>Committed to Rice</i>	Silsbee	6-5	225
9	Kerry Hyder <i>A&amp;M, KU, LSU, MIN, TEX</i>	Austin LBJ	6-3	230

## Defensive Backs (20)

1	Craig Loston <i>Committed to Clemson</i>	Aldine Eisenhower	6-3	185
2	Kevin Brent <i>KU, MIA, LSU, TEX, TT</i>	South Oak Cliff	6-0	210
3	Steve Williams <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Dallas Skyline	5-10	160
4	Marcus Davis <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Clear Creek	6-1	180
5	Eryon Barnett <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Eules Trinity	6-2	180
6	Steven Terrell <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Allen	5-11	175
7	A.J. Dugat <i>Committed to TCU</i>	Dayton	6-1	195
8	Colton Valencia <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Fort Bend Hightower	5-10	175
9	Charlie Thomas <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Beaumont Central	6-1	195
10	Kenny Vaccaro <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Brownwood	6-0	175
11	Will Ford <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Abilene Cooper	6-1	190
12	Stephen Campbell <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Jersey Village	6-0	180
13	Marcus Trice <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Mesquite	5-8	170
14	Desmond Gardiner <i>A&amp;M, TCU, BU, FLA, VT</i>	Port Arthur Memorial	5-11	180
15	Terrance Bullitt <i>Committed to Texas Tech</i>	Naaman Forest	6-3	180
16	Eddie Foster	Colleyville Heritage	6-0	175
17	Yahshua Williams	Denton Ryan	6-3	185
18	Dele Junaidd <i>Committed to Ole Miss</i>	Fort Bend Hightower	6-2	185
19	Dexter Linton <i>Committed to Kansas</i>	Arlington Bowie	6-0	185
20	Thomas Bates <i>Committed to Houston</i>	Baytown Lee	5-11	180

## Athletes (11)

1	Russell Shepard <i>Committed to LSU</i>	Cy Ridge	6-2	195
2	Chris Whaley <i>Committed to Texas</i>	Madisonville	6-2	205
3	Ryan Swope <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Austin Westlake	6-0	190
4	Darius Jones <i>Committed to Oklahoma</i>	Marshall	6-0	180
5	Rex Burkhead <i>BAMA, NEB, AUB, KU, STA</i>	Plano	6-0	190
6	Kenric McNeal <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Spring	6-1	165
7	Dustin Harris <i>Committed to Texas A&amp;M</i>	Livingston	6-2	175
8	A.J. Highsmith <i>Committed to Miami</i>	Fort Bend Hightower	6-0	185
9	Richard Morrison <i>Committed to Arizona</i>	Royse City	6-0	170
10	Charles Ross <i>Committed to Rice</i>	Schertz-Clemens	6-1	195
11	Broderick Jackson <i>Committed to Rice</i>	Kirbyville	5-11	200

This list is current as of September 30, 2008. Sign up for the Maroon & White Report at [www.agsports.com](http://www.agsports.com) to get recruiting news as it happens.





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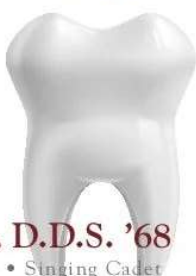
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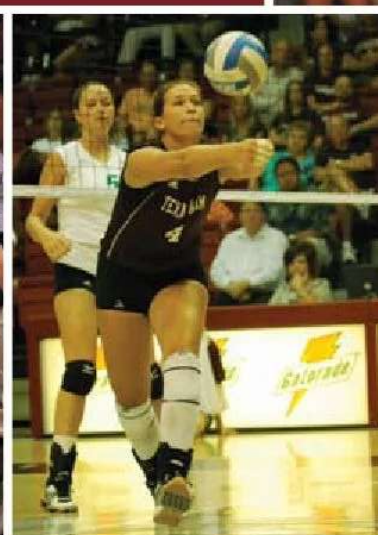
Despite depending on an influx of true freshmen and having to overcome injuries to several key returning players, the Texas A&M soccer program has picked up right where it left off last season and appears poised to challenge for its fifth straight Big 12 title. A 3-2 loss to 2nd-ranked North Carolina was the only blemish on the Aggies' difficult non-conference schedule. The Ags made an early statement to the rest of the league with three different players earning Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week honors during the first three weeks of the season. In the conference opener, Texas A&M battled archrival Texas to a 0-0 tie in Austin. Oklahoma State and Colorado join the Aggies and Longhorns as the favorites at this point in the season to capture the Big 12 crown.







The 2008 Texas A&M volleyball season has been a rollercoaster ride thus far with too much time spent on the low end. The Aggies got off to a rough start with a three-game losing streak, but followed with an impressive six-game winning streak before losing three more in a row as conference play began. Facing so many great teams in the Big 12, the Ags must raise their level of play on the court if they want to move to the upper half of the conference and achieve their goal of returning to the NCAA tournament for the first time in three years.







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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29				3	4
					<p>@Lady Tar Heel Invitational All Day</p> <p>Notre Dame Invitational TBA</p> <p>@Kansas State 9 am</p> <p>8 Oklahoma State 7:30 pm</p>	<p>@Lady Tar Heel Invitational All Day</p> <p>@Oklahoma State 6 pm</p> <p>Missouri 6:30 pm</p>
5			8	9	10	11
<p>@Lady Tar Heel Invitational All Day</p> <p>8 Oklahoma 1:30 pm</p>			@Kansas 7 pm		<p>@Mercedes Benz Champs All Day</p> <p>North Texas 4:30 pm</p> <p>Rice 4:30 pm</p> <p>8 Nebraska 7:30 pm</p>	<p>@Mercedes Benz Champs All Day</p> <p>Kansas State 1 pm</p> <p>@Texas Tech 7 pm</p>
12			15	16	17	18
<p>@Mercedes Benz Champs All Day</p> <p>8 Iowa State 1:30 pm</p>			Texas 6:30 pm	<p>SMU 10 am</p> <p>8 @Kansas 4 pm</p> <p>Baylor 6:30 pm</p>		<p>Texas Tech TBA</p> <p>Chili Pepper Festival TBA</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8 Missouri 1:30 pm	@Nebraska 6:30 pm			<p>@Missouri 6 pm</p> <p>@Kansas 6 pm</p>	<p>@Big 12 Relays All Day</p> <p>8 @Texas Tech 7 pm</p>	<p>@Iowa State TBA</p> <p>Kansas 6:30 pm</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8 @Colorado 2 pm	@The Baylor Intercollegiate TBA	@The Baylor Intercollegiate TBA	@Kansas St. 7 pm		<p>Penn State TBA</p>	<p>Colorado TBA</p> <p>@Big 12 Champs TBA</p> <p>@Texas 6:30 pm</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>@NGCA/ Hooters Match Play Champs All Day</p>	<p>@NGCA/ Hooters Match Play Champs All Day</p>	<p>@NGCA/ Hooters Match Play Champs All Day</p>	<p>8 @Big 12 Champs TBA</p> <p>Nebraska 6:30 pm</p> <p>Texas A&amp;M - Kingsville (Exh.) 7 pm</p>	8 @Big 12 Champs TBA	<p>8 @Big 12 Champs TBA</p> <p>Houston Jaguars (Exh.) 7 pm</p>	<p>8 @Big 12 Champs TBA</p> <p>Oklahoma TBA</p> <p>@Oklahoma State 10 am</p>





The debut race for Shadrack Songok (top left) with the Aggie cross country team was a successful one as the three-time NCAA track champion claimed the individual victory in 24 minutes, 16 seconds over the 8,000-meter course at the Texas A&M Invitational. A sweep of the top four places for A&M led the squad to a sixth consecutive title at its home meet. Christina Munoz (left) led the Texas A&M women's team with a seventh place finish as she covered the 5,000-meter course in 17:30. The Aggie crew placed fifth in team scoring with 134 points.




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# jeff FULLER

Twelve questions for the Aggies' phenomenal freshman wide receiver

**What do you do for fun?**

I love to just chill and hang out with my friends and teammates. Watch TV. Days off are very good. Being at home knowing there is nothing else I have to do the rest of the day is a great feeling.

**What is your favorite TV show?**

*Hard Knocks*. I like seeing what goes down at the Dallas Cowboy's training camp.

**Female celebrity you'd like to meet?**

Angelina Jolie.

**Three movies you cannot live without?**

*Training Day*, *Remember the Titans* and *Crash*.

**Who is your favorite football player of all time?**

Definitely Jerry Rice.

**Do you have any phobias?**

When I go to sleep, every door has to be closed. My closet door, bathroom door, bedroom door – they all have to be closed. That bothers me.

**Most interesting place you have visited?**

New Mexico was very interesting. It was very boring. But it was also very unique.

**What is your dream vacation?**

Going to the Bahamas.

**What do you want to accomplish ten years from now?**

I want to be successful and wealthy.

**What is the dumbest purchase you've ever made?**

Probably when I bought a 52-inch TV for my room. That was pretty dumb. Seemed like a good idea at the time.

**What is your favorite restaurant in Aggieland?**

I'd have to say Cheddars.

**Why do you love Texas A&M?**

You have to love the 12th Man and the spirit of Aggieland. **AT**

"When I go to sleep, every door has to be closed. My closet door, bathroom door, bedroom door – they all have to be closed. That bothers me."





## 2008 FIGHTIN' TEXAS AGGIE FOOTBALL: SEPTEMBER REWIND

### ARKANSAS STATE <sup>L</sup> RED WOLVES 18, AGS 14

The week before the Arkansas State game, fans were constantly reminded of the Red Wolves near upset in Austin in 2007. Not many thought it would be easy, but very few could have imagined the Ags losing this game, especially at Kyle Field. Four second half turnovers and countless miscues led to the worst start imaginable for the Mike Sherman era.

#### AI KEY PERFORMER:

RB Mike Goodson – Rushing: 24-124 yards, 2 TDs; Receiving: 6-30 yards

### AT NEW MEXICO <sup>W</sup> AGS 28, LOBOS 22

When a game-ending shoulder injury sidelined Stephen McGee after the opening series, sophomore Jerrod Johnson stepped in to his first meaningful action as Texas A&M's quarterback and did not disappoint. Johnson threw three touchdown passes leading the Aggies to their first win of the season, and the first victory for Mike Sherman.

#### AI KEY PERFORMER:

QB Jerrod Johnson – Passing: 10-19, 124 yards, 3 TDs

### MIAMI <sup>L</sup> HURRICANES 41, AGS 23

The rematch against Miami started off much better for the Ags than the 2007 contest. On the game's first snap, Mike Goodson took a short pass from Jerrod Johnson and broke four tackles for a 62-yard touchdown. Unfortunately, the Hurricanes took less than two minutes to answer. Miami gained 121 yards on its first six plays and never looked back after they built a 24-10 halftime lead.

#### AI KEY PERFORMER:

RB Mike Goodson – Rushing: 12-67 yards; Receiving: 4-79 yards, 2 TDs

### ARMY <sup>W</sup> AGS 21, BLACK KNIGHTS 17

The Aggies looked sloppy and sluggish early, picking up zero first downs in the first quarter. Defensive end Paul Freney returned a fumble 58 yards for a touchdown to break a 7-7 tie before halftime. True freshmen Trent Hunter and Cyrus Gray made big plays to keep the Ags on top, while senior Jorvorskie Lane was called upon to do what he does best to close out the game.

#### AI KEY PERFORMER:

DB Trent Hunter – Tackles: 17 (11 solo), 1 for loss









# justin BRANTLY

Twelve questions for the Aggie football team's star senior punter

## What do you do for fun?

I'm a big country boy, so I love to hunt and fish. I enjoy getting out there to take my mind off things. My girlfriend is a country girl, so we go to my deer lease or her land in Sealy. It's a great way to get away.

## Female celebrity you'd like to meet?

I'd like to meet Jessica Simpson. I always joke with my girlfriend about Erin Andrews when she's on TV, so it would be neat to meet her.

## Who is your favorite football player of all time?

Right now, I have to say Shane Lechler. I grew up knowing him and have followed in his footsteps. If not him, I'd say Brett Favre. I've always liked the way he plays.

## What is your dream vacation?

There's an island in a secluded area on the tip of Mexico. You stay in bungalows on the edge of the ocean with your own waiting staff and private access to the water. It's just a beautiful place. Some family friends have been and I'd love to go there.

## What do you want to accomplish ten years from now?

I want to be financially stable with a steady income. I'd like to settle down and raise a family. If I'm lucky, be playing in the NFL. If that doesn't work out, I want to be coaching kids at the high school level.

## What are your favorite TV shows?

*Entourage* and *The Office*.

## What is the dumbest purchase you've ever made?

There was this handy tool set that got me one night on the Home Shopping Network. For some reason, I was really into it and the guy sold it to me. I called and ordered it that night. The first time I tried to use the tool, it broke. There went \$19.95 down the drain.

## Most interesting place you have visited?

When I was twelve, we visited Jamaica. There were armed guards outside our resort. If you left the resort to go to the villages you were on your own. The guards would tell you to enter at your own risk. It was interesting to see how people lived down there.

## If you weren't playing football, what sport would you play?

Basketball has always been a passion of mine, but I know that it is a lot harder to make it in that sport. I also started playing golf when I got to college during my free time. My dad is a high school golf coach.

## What do you shoot on the golf course?

Oh man. That's rough. I don't think I want to say a number. It's a work in progress. It's just fun to get out there and hit the ball around.

## Why do you love Texas A&M?

I grew up in a small country town with one light – a blinking light. I love the small town country atmosphere here and I feel like everybody knows each other.

## What is your favorite Aggie tradition?

Definitely the 12th Man. It doesn't matter if we're up or down, winning or losing, the fans are always there to back us up. We travel to other schools and you just don't see that anywhere else. **AT**

"It doesn't matter if we're up or down, winning or losing, the fans are always there to back us up. We travel to other schools and you just don't see that anywhere else."



10.04.08

## AT OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

LAST SEASON: 7-6, 4-4 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

On paper, this matchup looks like a potential disaster for the Aggies. The non-conference schedule was a huge success for the Cowboys, as their offense reached its full potential against weaker teams. Going into the A&M game, the Cowboys' rushing attack ranked number one in the nation with an average of 340 yards per game. Consequently, the Pokes also featured the Big 12's top two rushers in Kendall Hunter (154.4 ypg) and Keith Toston (92 ypg). The Cowboys also boasted the country's third highest scoring team (51.8 points per game), fourth in total offense (562.5), fourth in net punting (41.7) and fourth in passing efficiency (185.8). Yikes.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

While the odds favor OSU heavily, football games aren't won on paper. The Cowboys have entered showdowns against the Aggies as favorites before, yet tend to fall short of victory. Even so, the mountain could be too high for the Ags to overcome this season.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Sat, Aug 30	at Washington State	W 39-13
Sat, Sep 6	Houston	W 56-37
Sat, Sep 13	Missouri State	W 57-13
Sat, Sep 27	Troy	W 55-24
<b>Sat, Oct 4</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Oct 11	at Missouri	
Sat, Oct 18	Baylor	
Sat, Oct 25	at Texas	
Sat, Nov 1	Iowa State	
Sat, Nov 8	at Texas Tech	
Sat, Nov 15	at Colorado	
Sat, Nov 29	Oklahoma	



10.11.08

## KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

LAST SEASON: 5-7, 3-5 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

This year's Wildcat squad tends to go the same direction as starting quarterback Josh Freeman. When Freeman is on, the Wildcats are superb. When he's not, the team looks abismal. Freeman's favorite target this season has been wide receiver Brandon Banks, who went into the Texas Tech game in early October as the nation's number one receiver in terms of yards per game (115.8). The Wildcats' 3-1 non-conference record featured a Wednesday night loss at the hands of a struggling Louisville program. K-State's defense never found an answer for freshman running back Vic Anderson, who reeled off touchdown runs covering 29, 56 and 27 yards.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

With an unsteady offensive attack and a defense that has a tendency to give up the big play, the Kansas State game is probably one of the most winnable matchups remaining on the A&M schedule. The Ags must win this one to have hopes of a bowl berth.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Sat, Aug 30	North Texas	W 45-6
Sat, Sep 6	Montana State	W 69-10
Wed, Sep 17	at Louisville	L 29-38
Sat, Sep 27	Louisiana-Lafayette	W 45-37
Sat, Oct 4	Texas Tech	
<b>Sat, Oct 11</b>	<b>at Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Oct 18	at Colorado	
Sat, Oct 25	Oklahoma	
Sat, Nov 1	at Kansas	
Sat, Nov 8	at Missouri	
Sat, Nov 15	Nebraska	
Sat, Nov 22	Iowa State	



10.18.08

## TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

LAST SEASON: 9-4, 4-4 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

What's left to say about Texas Tech? Quarterback Graham Harrell is rewriting the Texas Tech record book, and will have just surpassed fellow Red Raider Kliff Kingsbury after facing Kansas State in the conference opener. Michael Crabtree is arguably the number one receiver in the nation, and will likely top Wes Welker's all-time receiving mark this season. When the most prolific quarterback and receiver in school history happen to play at the same time, it forms an unstoppable tandem. Combine that with a stout defense chalked full of returning starters, and you get a top 10 national ranking.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

It's never pretty when the Red Raiders invade Aggieland. Statues get pirate patches, buildings get vandalized and tempers among fans run short. While Tech tends to overlook "inferior" opponents in conference play, a rivalry game usually defies exceptions.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Sat, Aug 30	Eastern Washington	W 49-24
Sat, Sep 6	at Nevada	W 35-19
Sat, Sep 13	Southern Methodist	W 43-7
Sat, Sep 20	Massachusetts	W 56-14
Sat, Oct 4	at Kansas State	
Sat, Oct 11	Nebraska	
<b>Sat, Oct 18</b>	<b>at Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Oct 25	at Kansas	
Sat, Nov 1	Texas	
Sat, Nov 8	Oklahoma State	
Sat, Nov 22	at Oklahoma	
Sat, Nov 29	Baylor	



10.25.08

## AT IOWA STATE CYCLONES

LAST SEASON: 3-9, 2-6 in Big 12

## OVERVIEW:

After romping South Dakota State and Kent State in their first two games at home, the Cyclones promptly dropped their next two games at struggling Iowa and UNLV. Heading into conference play, the Cyclones didn't have a running back averaging more than 50 yards per game. Defensive-minded head coach Gene Chizik's squad actually allowed more yards per game than his team managed to accumulate, and the lone offensive bright spot is quarterback Austen Arnaud's 65% completion percentage. Longtime A&M commit Sedrick Johnson should probably look twice before heading over the middle against the Aggie defense.

## AI'S PREDICTION:

Another must-win game for the Aggies in the race for a bowl berth. Chizik never could quite figure out the Aggie offense when he was the defensive coordinator at Texas. Let's hope the maroon and white continues to puzzle the Iowa State head coach.

## 2008 SCHEDULE:

Thu, Aug 28	South Dakota State	W 44-17
Sat, Sep 6	Kent State	W 48-28
Sat, Sep 13	at Iowa	L 5-17
Sat, Sep 20	at UNLV	L 31-34
Sat, Oct 4	Kansas	
Sat, Oct 11	at Baylor	
Sat, Oct 18	Nebraska	
<b>Sat, Oct 25</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M</b>	
Sat, Nov 1	at Oklahoma State	
Sat, Nov 8	at Colorado	
Sat, Nov 15	Missouri	
Sat, Nov 22	at Kansas State	







## the perfect match

From Colorado to Texas, volleyball star Sarah Ammerman finds her home in Aggieland

BY JASON MCCONNELL '01

Sarah Ammerman comes from a big volleyball family.

Her parents met in Alaska where her mother, Maria, played volleyball at the University of Anchorage. Her father, Brett, played club volleyball at Purdue and was a member of the Men's 45 and Over Gold Flight championship team at the 2005 USA Open Championships.

Volleyball is a way of life in the Ammerman household – which consists of four boys and four girls. Sarah's older brother, Ryan, is a 6-10 setter at the University of California-Irvine. Two younger brothers, Dalton and Luke, are both 6-7 entering their senior year in high school in their hometown of Parker, Colorado.

Now a junior at Texas A&M, Sarah, the oldest girl in her family, always knew she wanted to play volleyball.

"I was born and raised in the gym," she said. "As I grew older, my passion for the game increased. I wanted to compete and be the best."

### PLAYING THE FIELD

Ammerman was highly recruited coming out of Chaparral High School. After leading the team to the Colorado state finals, she was a National Player of the Year finalist as well as named to volleyball's "Fab 50" – a list of the nation's top 50 high school players.

While success on the court came easy for Ammerman, choosing a college to

"I want to be the person the ball is set to. I crave that. I want to be in those situations. When the game is on the line, I want to go out and win it."

—SARAH AMMERMAN



play for did not.

"I had no idea what I wanted," she admits. "I didn't know if I wanted big or small, far away or close to home. I had to take a lot of visits."

Her visits included trips to Washington, Michigan, Texas, Nebraska, Illinois, Colorado and Colorado State. Texas A&M was her last trip.

"I had never really even heard of Texas A&M," she recalls.

As soon as Ammerman started looking into Texas A&M, she really liked what she started to see in the coaches, team and school.

"I went to all those other schools and I was thinking, 'Yeah, I could go here,'" she said, "but once I took a visit to A&M, I knew this is where I was supposed to be."

## IMMEDIATE IMPACT

As a freshman, Ammerman made an immediate impact on the Aggie volleyball team. Looking back, she describes starting the season at the Colorado State University Hilton Classic as one of her most memorable moments on the court.

"It was in front of all my friends and family," she recalls. "It was pretty special starting my college career at a place where they could be a part of it."

Ammerman led the team her freshman year in aces per game and led or tied the team in kills and points in nine matches.

That production continued in her sophomore season where Ammerman was named A&M's Best Offensive Player. She led the Aggies and was in the top 5 of the Big 12 with almost 4.5 kills and over 5 points per game.

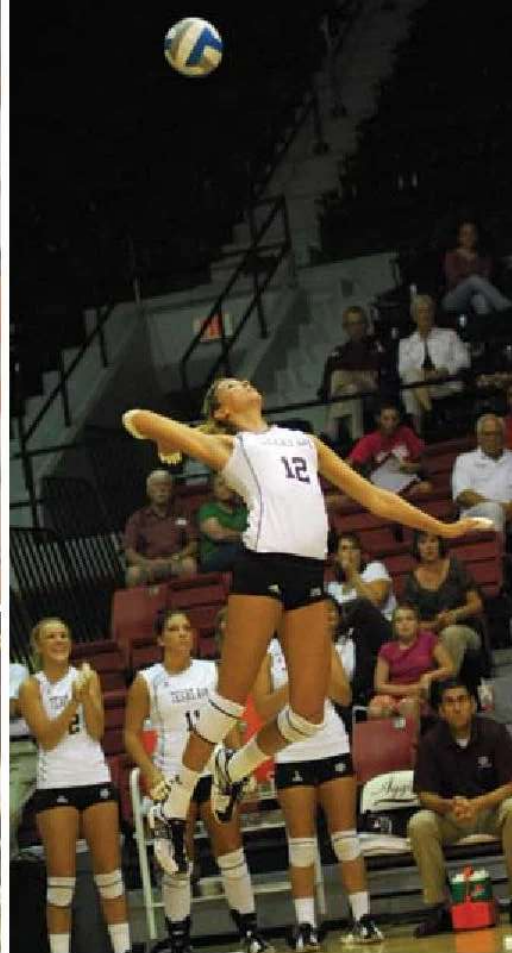
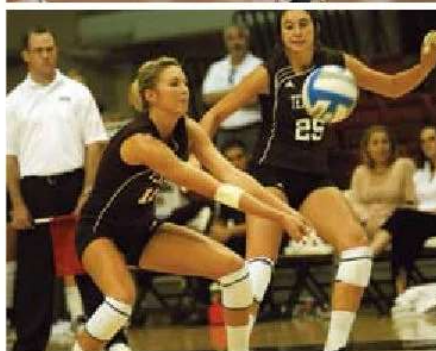
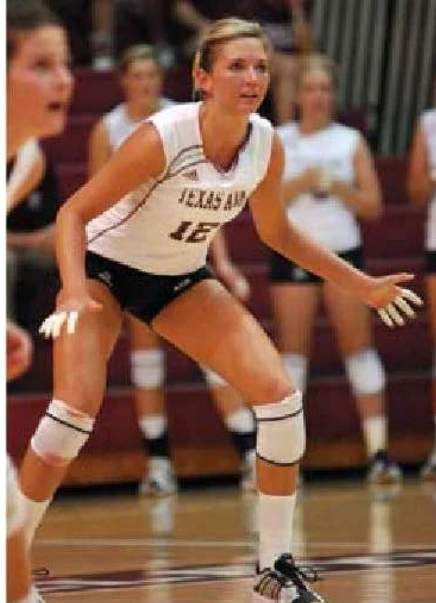
Additionally, she was named the MVP of the Montana State Holiday Inn Classic after leading the Aggies to the tournament title in 2007.

Just over a month through the 2008 season, Ammerman is averaging 3 kills and 3.5 points per game – both second on the team – and she is tied for the most serving aces.

## DISTINCTIVE PLAY

Watching her play, fans often notice Ammerman's distinctive serve – a really high toss with a high-flying jump.

"I have been working on my jump serve since I was 16, but it has changed and developed over the years," she said. "I definitely attract some attention, but it



is good to have some variety of serves on the team."

But Ammerman prefers big kills over big serves. The team watches game films of opponents to determine what the defensive strategy is going to be and where they want to hit. But sometimes, a competitive edge takes over.

"Sometimes you wouldn't mind taking someone out," she jokes. "It wouldn't be a bad thing to hit someone in the face on the next one. We always say that to each other."

That same competitiveness shows during a close game, and Ammerman loves the fact that she is viewed as someone to go to.

"I want to be the person the ball is set to," she said. "I crave that. I want to be in those situations. When the game is on the line, I want to go out and win it."

## THE ULTIMATE GOAL

Now in her third year with the program, Ammerman has a hard time realizing her college career is more than halfway over. She has big goals still left to accomplish.

"I want to play the best I can for my

team," she said. "My goal is to play the best match I can, each time I set foot on the court."

While the Aggies have struggled at times, Ammerman can't help but notice the success of other schools that recruited her, but that just makes her more focused on the team and her goals at A&M.

"When I was going through the recruiting process, I wasn't just looking for a place to have a good time," she admits. "I was looking for a place to win a national championship. I'm not just in it for the experience. I want to win."

Two years after choosing Texas A&M, Ammerman knows that she made the right decision.

"This is where I am supposed to be," she said. "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. The coaches, the 12th Man, G. Rolie – this place is pretty unbelievable."

Indeed, life as an Aggie volleyball star has been a good experience for Ammerman thus far, but her ultimate goal remains unclaimed.

"I want to win a national championship with this team," she said. "That is what I want to do and I have two years left to do it. It is going to come for us." **AG**





# an AGGIE from the start

Sophomore soccer  
star Rachel Shipley  
was destined to  
be an Aggie

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

There are families with Aggies in them, and then there are Aggie families.

The oldest of three siblings, Rachel Shipley grew up in an Aggie family. Her parents (Todd '80 and Melissa '81) are former students now raising their family in Plano, TX. Her grandfather didn't attend Texas A&M, but his name – Dr. John J. Koldus III – is instantly recognizable by Aggies everywhere. Koldus became A&M's first Vice President for Student Services in 1973 and held the position for 20 years.

"My grandparents lived in the white house on campus," she adds. "I would always visit them and walk to the football games from their house."

The Aggie family connections don't stop there. Shipley's uncle is Ray Childress – a former football All-American at A&M and an All-Pro with the Houston Oilers. Despite the Aggie influence from her relatives, Shipley has never felt any family pressure – just unconditional love and support. But when it came time to choose what school to play for, there were few doubts of where she was headed.

"Coach G didn't have to recruit me too hard," she admits.

"I always knew I wanted to go to A&M. I visited some other schools, but when I came here, I knew I wanted to play soccer with these girls, for this team and for this university."

Shipley, a four-year letterwinner at Plano West High School, played her first season with the Aggie soccer team last year, earning a starting role in twelve of the team's 24 matches. She led the freshman class in scoring with two goals, and was third on the team with six assists. The rest of the conference took notice and named Shipley to the Big 12 All-Newcomer team. She also earned the team's Newcomer of the Year award. Shipley's ability to adjust to college soccer set her apart from the rest.

"The biggest difference between high school and college soccer is the competition and intensity in practice and in games," she said. "You have to work hard all the time in college in order to keep your spot and compete at this level."

Perhaps the most amazing part of Shipley's success last season is that she fought her way on to the field as a true freshman playing with arguably the best senior class in Aggie soccer history. The eight members of that senior class left Aggieland having won a Big 12 Championship in each of their four years. Naturally, the



biggest question mark entering this season was how such a class could be replaced. How could this team keep the streak alive?

"There is definitely some pressure after winning back-to-back-to-back-to-back Big 12 titles, but it is a good kind of pressure because we want to keep winning championships here," she said. "That is what the Aggie soccer program has become and we hope to continue that tradition."

Even though she's only a sophomore, Shipley could be considered one of the veterans on the team this season.

"We had a great senior class last year," she said. "They were just awesome on the field obviously as well as off the field. But our freshmen class is doing a phenomenal job of filling those roles and we're only getting better. We needed them to step up and play like veterans and they have embraced the challenge."

With so many new faces on the team comes the challenge of creating team chemistry. Shipley contends that the new players have meshed well with the girls on the team making an easy transition.

"We are so close off the field," she said. "I think that's a huge reason why we are successful. We have so much fun together."

On the way back from a recent road trip, the team's flight was delayed for two hours. They passed the time by doing an ab workout in the middle of the airport.

"I love every single one of these girls," she said. "There are no cliques and everyone is very supportive of each other."

Replacing the senior leadership has been the biggest challenge this season, but the returning players are doing their part in filling those shoes collectively.

"I know that I have to lead by example by bringing it every


"There is definitely some pressure after winning back-to-back-to-back-to-back Big 12 titles, but it is a good kind of pressure because we want to keep winning championships here. That is what the Aggie soccer program has become and we hope to continue that tradition."

—RACHEL SHIPLEY

single practice and every single game," she said. "I need to be a leader on and off the field and be more confident in myself."

She is already showing her leadership abilities on the field. When the Aggies have a penalty kick or a free kick that's close to the goal, Shipley is typically the one who steps up to take it.

"I would have been so scared to do that last year," she admits. "But I relish that role now."

Off the field, the sophomore business major does not know what she wants to be when she grows up yet. However, one thing is for certain. She will have the unconditional support of her growing Aggie family when she figures it out. 





# In a Class of His Own





## R.C. Slocum: The Man, The Coach, The Legend

BY STEPHANIE WHITEHEAD '10



Nearly all of the winning glory and surely one hundred percent of a team's loss is placed upon the shoulders of a man who never even sets foot on the field, let alone suits up. Poised at the top of the hill, he leads his men into a contest that he does not physically participate in himself, yet somehow results in his head on the chopping block if his team is defeated. The will of such a man to take on this position must be made of iron; for the media and critical fans are sure to bear down upon him with little to no mercy. With such a job description, who would possibly volunteer, let alone fight for such a position?

The toughest and most controversial position regarding college football would arguably be the head coach position. Spending an hour with R.C. Slocum – head coach at Texas A&M from 1989 to 2002 – to talk about his experiences in this role gave me a newfound respect for this job. In Slocum, you will not find a stereotypical callous coach with a “win or die” coaching philosophy. Instead, there is tough love and a passion for teaching young men how to play the game without sacrificing honor and respect. From his humble beginnings in Orange, TX to the President's box at Kyle Field, Slocum has shown that you cannot put a price on a man's character.

### THE MAN

Growing up in Orange, TX in low-rent housing taught Slocum a thing or two about life.

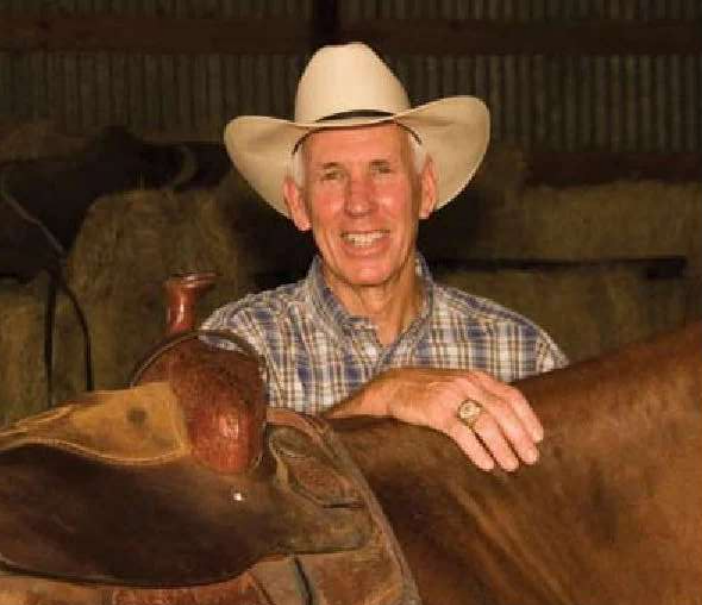
“I used to tell the players, don't talk to me about the projects,” Slocum recalled. “I was in the projects long before you guys even heard about it.”

The honest work ethic Slocum strove to pass on to his players was ingrained in him even before reaching the end of his elementary years. His first job was as a shoeshine boy, but he “became a little businessman in the fourth grade” selling newspapers on his own. By the seventh grade he had his own paper route, and by the ninth grade he was bagging groceries and stocking shelves at the local supermarket.

While growing up in the poorest section of town, Slocum learned that class and character cannot be determined by money or education. As his status in life has risen, he has had the opportunity to rub elbows with people from all walks of life. Over time, he has met bighearted folks with more grace than money and “sorry” people from all walks of life.

Slocum began his football career in the seventh grade when he was recruited by the junior high football coach. After seeing him in a P.E. class, the coach asked Slocum why he was not playing football and convinced him to join the team. That coach, along with many others, played a part in nurturing not only the future coach's playing ability, but also his passion for helping others grow in the sport. Slocum cites his own coaches as his inspiration for becoming a coach





himself. The role they played in shaping his character motivated him to become the type of coach that “shoots straight” with his players, working to build them into men of integrity.

One such man was his high school coach, Ted Jeffries. Jeffries taught his players not only the game of football, but also how to live with honor. Jeffries’ team won the State Championship in 1941, the week before Pearl Harbor was bombed. The day after the attacks, he and his senior players signed up for the service together. With role models like that, it was inevitable that Slocum would stress the importance of honor and respect to the many young men he coached during his career.

## THE COACH

Slocum spent all but one year from 1972 to 2002 coaching football at Texas A&M. Coaching meant much more to Slocum than merely bringing in as many wins and big paychecks as possible.

“The wins tend to run together over time,” he admits. “The real lasting thing is what those guys became and what they gained from it.”

One of his main priorities as a coach was to have a team that reflected the values of Texas A&M. Promoting those values often began with the recruiting process. Slocum admits that the first thing he would tell a recruit is that this may not be the place for him. He would encourage the young man to come see if he fit in at A&M. Slocum encouraged players to try out other schools and see where they fit best.

“If we worked hard, had a good program and contacted enough guys, we would get our share of the good players,” he said.

As the winningest football coach in Texas A&M history, Slocum led the Aggies through some of their proudest moments. But of all the memorable moments on and off the field, there’s one that stands out the most in his mind – the Bonfire game.

“Our kids were hurting, the coaches were hurting, but we felt an obligation to get ready for that game,” he recalls.

The win over Texas that followed was the culmination of weeks of emotion that Slocum and his players will never forget.

In addition to the young men he helped mold, Slocum is proud of the assistant coaches he hired over the years. Many of them have gone on to coach at well-respected universities and the NFL. Gary Kubiak, a former Texas A&M player and coach, is now the current head coach for the Houston Texans. Tommy Tuberville, former A&M defensive coordinator, now calls the shots at Auburn. And the new head man in Aggieland, Mike Sherman, was an A&M offensive line coach.

Slocum is confident in the University’s pick and is excited to see Sherman return. He says that Sherman needs to do what he feels is important and not worry about what other people are saying. Slocum recalls the pressures of a career in which people are constantly trying to tell you how to do your job.

“As many Aggies as there are, there are that many opinions,” he adds. “My only advice to Mike Sherman would be to work hard and keep your eye on the target and not let the chatter bother you.”





"The wins tend to run together over time. The real lasting thing is what those guys became and what they gained from it."

—R.C. SLOCUM

He recalls the old adage, "Above all else, to thine own self be true" to strengthen his opinion on the demands that await any college football head coach.

Slocum now has a very different perspective at Kyle Field than he did six years ago. He is able to move around the stadium and spend some time in the President's box, all with much less weight on his shoulders. He admits that he still has no idea how each game will end even with his many years of coaching experience. People come to him looking for his take on the possible outcome and ask, "Coach, what do you think?" His answer: "Shoot, I don't know." He claims to have no more special insight than he did when he was the one calling the shots.

## THE LEGEND

Slocum participates in an annual Legends coaches' poll that is comprised of 16 coaches in or qualified to be in the College Football Hall of Fame. Even these seasoned men who have spent their whole lives coaching argue back and forth on their picks for the year.


"This is college athletics, it's not a life or death deal," Slocum adds.

Slocum has yet to understand how some fans take the outcome of a game harder than the players on the field. He recalls a story about a fan that came up to him after the Aggies upset LSU, a major victory for the team that called for celebration. This fan proceeded to criticize how the offense played proving that some football fans will find something to complain about no

matter how well you do. He always stood by the same philosophy – "give it your best shot, analyze what happened, see what you could have done better and move on."

As a new man sits down in the hot seat of Aggie football, Slocum is able to enjoy the view from the sidelines. Although no longer in such a public position, he still holds court in the ranks of A&M's highest officials. Slocum's role at Texas A&M is as a Special Advisor to the President, Dr. Elsa Murano. This allows him to be a part of the campus where he has spent much of his adult life. It also allows him to be a part of recruiting and support the team any way that he can.

Slocum continues to be honored for his contributions to Aggie athletics. He was recently inducted into the Texas A&M Athletics Hall of Fame on September 19 at the Annual Burgess Banquet of the Texas A&M Lettermen's Association.

He has dealt with all that has been thrown at him with an amazing amount of grace and ease. He is not boastful of his achievements (you would never know from spending time with him that he is the winningest coach in A&M football history) nor does he avoid taking responsibility for the losses. His players remained his highest priority even when the strain of the job would have been too much for the average man. While the end of his coaching years was not a change he chose, it has given him more time to spend on his ranch. About 40 miles outside of College Station, he plays cowboy by riding his horses, quail hunting and working his cows. Despite all of his great success, he's still just a "down-home, good ole' boy" from Orange, TX. 





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# the fountain OF YOUTH

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

So far, the 2008 Aggie football season has left many fans searching for a silver lining. If hope is on the horizon, it might be found by taking a trip to the fountain of youth.

When Mike Sherman assumed the duties as A&M's head coach, he quickly identified and gained commitments from several players to close out the 2008 recruiting class. Those prospects included wide receiver Jeff Fuller (who was committed to Oklahoma), defensive lineman Eddie Brown (who was committed to Nebraska), safety Trent Hunter (who was committed to Kansas State), cornerback Terence Frederick (who was committed to Louisville), running back Cyrus Gray and linebacker Ricky Cavanaugh. Those names should ring a bell, as each of the true freshmen have heard their name called over the PA system at Kyle Field this fall, and Fuller and Hunter have been particularly impressive thus far.


A 6-4 specimen, Fuller is on pace to rewrite the Texas A&M record book for receivers. Through four games, Fuller has already reeled in four touchdown passes. That's over halfway to the single season record of eight (held by Bethel Johnson and twice by Bob Long). The Aggie legacy's switch from Bob Stoops' Sooners has been paramount to the development of the A&M passing game and the number one selling point for future playmakers at the position. Fuller's leap over a New Mexico defender to haul in his second touchdown pass of the game is exactly the type of game-changing ability the Aggies have lacked since Terrence Murphy

donned the maroon and white.

At safety, Trent Hunter's impressive showing on special teams and in practice allowed him to seize his window of opportunity when starter Jordan Peterson was held out of the Army game due to injury. Hunter earned his first career start in Peterson's absence and tallied a formidable 17 tackles, garnering Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week honors along the way. Eleven of his tackles were solo stops, and his performance was so disruptive that the Black Knights were forced to change their blocking scheme. Hunter became the first A&M defender to win Big 12 Player of the Week honors since linebacker Mark Dodge did it twice in 2006 (against Nebraska and Texas).

While it might be unrealistic for each of the aforementioned players to have the same level of impact as Hunter and Fuller, it's certainly not beyond the realm of expectations for each player to be a significant contributor this time next season. And if Mike Sherman continues to identify immediate-impact players in the 2009 recruiting class, the influx of young talent could be sufficient to turn the corner toward the program's resurgence.

Indeed, the silver lining of young talent can give Aggie fans a few rays of hope for the future. Just a few more trips to the fountain of youth could be just what the doctor ordered.

*Editor's Note: Rumor has it that the fountain of youth currently resides at Aldine Eisenhower and Beaumont Westbrook high schools this season. Bring 'em to Aggieland!* 



# the 12th man.



(top left) Linebacker Derek Dumas was the 12th Man representative for the Arkansas State game for the first time in his career. (top right) Corps of Cadets freshmen chase down the Yell Leaders after the Aggies' first home victory over Army. (above) Students yell during the Miami game. (above, right) Aggie fans tailgate before the Miami game. (right) The family of Jean and Rich Holt on campus for Second Lt. Adam Holt's A&M graduation and commissioning in August (notice baby Noah's "Gig'em"). (below, left and right) The 12th Man packed the Aggie soccer complex for A&M's battle with 2nd-ranked North Carolina. (facing page, top to bottom) The Prairie View A&M band entertained Aggie fans with a performance during halftime of the Miami game. Corps members stretch an American flag the length of Kyle Field while the singing cadets perform *Amazing Grace* during halftime of the Army game. The Yell Leaders stand at attention during the National Anthem at an Aggie soccer match. A former member of the 12th Man Kickoff Team with perhaps a future member. "Rudy" Ruettiger poses with Reveille VIII, her handler John Busch and other Corps of Cadets members during the Army game.







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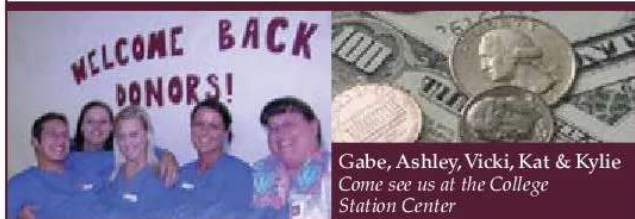
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# The New First Lady OF TEXAS A&M

BY LAUREN KERN '09

When John Busch joined the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University his freshman year, he had no idea what he would be doing the next year. Little did he know, he would be the first mascot corporal of the new First Lady of Texas A&M, Reveille VIII.

After Reveille VII retired at the end of the 2007-2008 school year, it was up in the air as to who the next mascot would be. University officials found the answer in a 2-year-old collie from Topeka, Kansas. She has now made a home for herself at Texas A&M with her new handler, Busch.

First semester freshmen in Rebel E-2 – the “mascot company” – are not supposed to know about Reveille or see her. When second semester rolls around, they get the assignment to learn everything they can about Reveille and her history. Busch spent a total of 40 hours in the Cushing Library learning everything that he possibly could about Reveille.

## THE HISTORY OF REVEILLE

The real tradition began with Sam Netterville and Reveille II. Netterville, a Beaumont native like Busch, became the first official mascot corporal and had the student senate instate a rule saying that all future Reveilles would be cared for by his company. Miss Rev, as she has come to be called, would follow Netterville everywhere from football games to class.

“He paved the way for the power of Reveille today,” Busch said.

As years past, new Reveilles came. Reveille V never missed a home football, baseball or basketball game. Shortly after Reveille VI was introduced in 1993, she was stolen. A student from the University of Texas had been following her and her handler for a while. When winter break rolled around, the Longhorn followed Reveille back to Dallas where the mascot corporal would be keeping her during the break.

She was stolen and kept for nearly a week until her captor got scared of the repercussions of the law. She was tied to a post near Lake Travis, the police were called and she was returned back to the arms of her handler, safe and sound.

## A NEW YEAR

With every passing year, more and more memories of Reveille are formed. This year marks the beginning of a new era for Reveille VIII. Beginning his duty as mascot corporal, Busch has no regrets.

“It’s turned out to be a pretty good decision,” he admits. “I wouldn’t give it up for anything in the world.”

Being Reveille’s so-called “guardian” does come with certain advantages. Busch is allowed to walk on the grass as a sophomore, which is only a senior privilege. He marvels at all the incredible people he has met and all the stories he has heard.

Busch isn’t hard to miss with Reveille always by his side and the common conversation starter is, “Is that really Reveille?”

It is. And at the end of the day, everything is all about her. As the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets with five diamonds that she wears on her coat at football games, she receives even more perks. After all, many of the pictures of Busch are from his knees down only to focus on Reveille.

“I have the best known shoes in Aggieland,” Busch jokes.







## TOP 10 PERKS OF BEING REVEILLE VIII

1. Front row seats at football games.
2. I get to hang out with all the Yell Leaders.
3. I have my own credit card.
4. I get to hang out in the President's Box.
5. I have my own locker in the football locker room.
6. I can get out of class early if I bark.
7. I have a social secretary.
8. I have my own phone.
9. Doors are always opened for me.
10. I'm the highest ranking member of the Corps!

## THE HEART OF AGGIELAND

Reveille seems like a pretty average dog as she plays with her stuffed Bevo toy and chews on Beggin' Strips – her favorite snack. But she is far from average. Not many dogs have their own student ID with Aggie Bucks included.

Instantly recognizable, students and staff alike frequently stop to meet the new Reveille when they see her on campus.

When Busch's accounting teacher found out that Reveille VIII would be in his class, he took a bowl from his dog who had recently passed away, wrote Reveille's name on it and brought it to class. Now Reveille always has water when she goes to accounting.

She is a integral part of the Aggie family, and the tradition is here to stay.

"She really is the heart of Aggieland," he said.

Meanwhile Busch is enjoying every minute he spends with her and it's obvious when one stops to look at Reveille following closely by his side.

"Every day I wake up is one day closer to the day that I'll have to give her up to a freshman," he said.

At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, Busch will transfer his duties to a freshman that hasn't even begun to embrace the idea of Reveille. That freshman will sit in Cushing Library next semester, learning about Miss Rev and will continue the tradition when the time comes. **AI**

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## TAILGATE OF THE MONTH: THE MIAMI GAME

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## aggie tailgate of the month



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**ENTERTAINMENT:** DOMINOES, CARDS, PONG, WATCH FOOTBALL GAMES AND MOVIES (THE RV HAS THREE FLAT SCREEN TVS) AND WATCH KIDS PLAY TOGETHER.

**Howdy!** If you are interested in having A/I feature your Aggie tailgate in a future issue, send an email to [editor@aggielandillustrated.com](mailto:editor@aggielandillustrated.com)





**FAMILY ATMOSPHERE:** OTHER SCHOOLS MAY HAVE STRONGER TAILGATE TRADITIONS, BUT FEW ARE MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY THAN AGGIE TAILGATES. PARENTS FEEL SAFE ABOUT HAVING THEIR KIDS OUT THERE.



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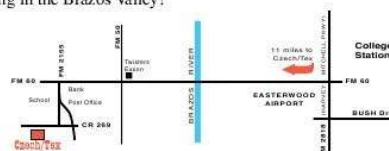


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# PUTTING AGGIE VALUES INTO PRACTICE

BY STEPHANIE WHITEHEAD '10

Dr. Don McLeroy's love for his alma mater runs far deeper than the typical fondness most college graduates feel while reminiscing about their long-gone, carefree days on campus. The Bryan dentist's face glows with pride at the chance to revel in the history and tradition that make up the foundation of Texas A&M.

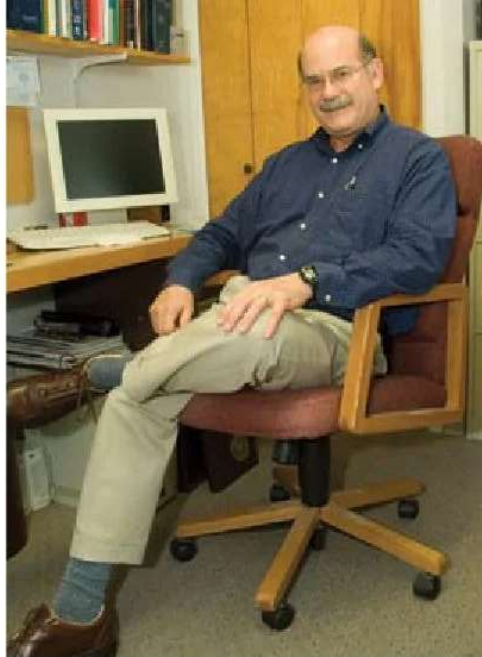
## GROWING UP AN AGGIE

The Aggie way of life was ingrained in McLeroy at a young age by his father, class of '38. He grew up attending football games decked out in maroon, eagerly anticipating following in his father's engineering footsteps. When the time arrived, he joined the corps of cadets and became heavily involved in all that A&M had to offer. During his freshman year, McLeroy was elected as a student senator alongside other distinguished Aggies such as classmate Henry Cisneros, who went on to serve in the Clinton administration. In his junior year, McLeroy was honored with the "humbling experience" of being chosen as an Aggie Yell Leader.

"It was such a privilege to be out there," McLeroy recalls of leading the yells that have kept Aggie fans cheering since 1907.

His favorite memory as a Yell Leader was getting thrown into the fish pond by the freshman corps members after winning games. This was a rare occasion in the 60's because there were fewer home games than there are now – there were only three games in one of the years he attended A&M. McLeroy also valued the honor of leading the Aggie band and his fellow students in the march across campus to Midnight Yell. Joining the Singing Cadets was another unique experience that gave him the opportunity to help preserve tradition and stir up emotion in fans through songs that have stood the test of time in Aggieland.

It takes no time for McLeroy to come up with his all-time



favorite Aggie tradition.

"Bonfire," he replies without missing a beat, "I hate to see that thing gone."

His unit would work on their particular task alongside the rest of the corps in the three or four days preceding the burning.

"Bonfire brought us together as a whole school," he recalled.

Although it remains one of McLeroy's most cherished Aggie traditions, he does not feel it should be reinstated today.

"Our world has changed too much," he says.

He believes other traditions, such as the well-respected event of Muster, keep the Aggie spirit going today.

## CHANGING DIRECTIONS

After graduating in 1968 with a degree in electrical engineering, McLeroy joined the army and was quickly stationed in Berlin, Germany. If he had been stationed anywhere other than Berlin, McLeroy admits he would have never become a dentist.

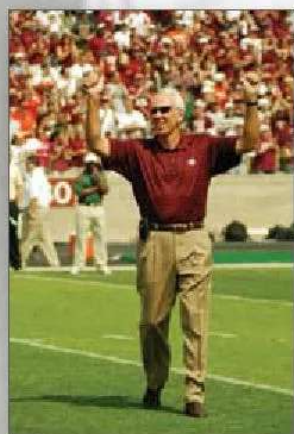
While in the army, he was saving up to purchase a Porsche 911T, but the Berlin Wall changed his mind. With a speed limit of only 30 mph, the city was no place for a car that required the freedom of the open road.

Upon completing his service in the army, McLeroy had saved \$11,000. He decided to spend the next six months traveling, visiting friends, and contemplating what to do next in life. After considering many options, he settled upon dental school. He has two uncles who are dentists and decided to follow in their footsteps. While in dental school, he met his future wife, Nancy Fleming, and settled upon where he would set up his future practice. While on the drive back after attending the annual Bonfire, he and Nancy separately had the idea of settling down in the College Station-Bryan area. To this day, they agree that it is "a great place to raise a family."

McLeroy continues to serve College Station and Bryan as a dentist and active member of the community. He is also the Republican chairman of the Texas State Board of Education. His two sons have kept the family tradition alive by earning their own engineering degrees at Texas A&M. Without a doubt, Dr. McLeroy has done his part in upholding the fine reputation for which Aggies have become so famous. **AI**







R.C. Slocum, the winningest football coach in Texas A&M history, and five Aggie athletic greats were inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame at the 31st annual Burgess Banquet in September. Slocum closed out his 14-year career with a record of 123-47-2 (.721) and led A&M to 11 bowl games, including five New Year's Day games, during that time. Along the way he won six championships (three Southwest Conference, one overall Big 12 Championship, and two Big 12 South crowns), and closed out the SWC era with the best winning percentage of any league coach with an .865 (44-6-2) percentage.



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